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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/076,400	02/19/2002	Yoshihiro Ohta	HIRA.0022	2140

38327 7590 09/01/2004

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, CAM LINH T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2171

DATE MAILED: 09/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/076,400

Applicant(s)

OHTA ET AL.

Examiner

CamLinh Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 1 – 5, 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Li et al (U.S. 2002/0161747).

♦ As per claim 1, 13,

Li et al discloses an information retrieval system for retrieving information from a database, said information retrieval system comprising:

- “Means for representing an input screen for inputting query information” See Fig. 2, element 180, paragraph 0048, 0086.
- “And query vector representing means for representing a query conception assembled from the inputted query information as a query vector which contains a plurality of keywords and weights of the respective keyword” See Fig. 2, element 188, page 5, paragraph 0048, 0058. The weight of the keyword corresponds to the value of the extracted keyword.

♦ As per claim 2, Li discloses:

- “Wherein the query information can be inputted to the input screen **with any one of** a name of a file which saves information in a text format, a sentence and a phrase in a

natural language, an ID number of a public database, a URL, identification information of query conceptions already registered, and a combination of any of the foregoing, and said query vector representing means represents the query vector generated by integrating the query information which is inputted to the input screen” See page 5, paragraph 0048. Li teaches that the input search criteria can include low level and/or high-level feature vectors (paragraph 0049) that include text description of an image. This description corresponds to “a sentence or phrase in a natural language”.

◆ As per claim 3 – 5, Li discloses:

- “Means for editing a query vector represented on said query vector representing means”
See paragraph 0059, 0065.
- “Wherein said means for editing a query vector includes any one of: means for restricting keywords represented on said query vector representing means to keywords having at least a designated weight; and means for restricting keywords represented on said query vector representing means to keywords having high weights within a designated ranking”
See paragraph 0074, 0077.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 6 - 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Li et al (U.S. 2002/0161747) in view of Black et al (U.S. 2002/0035573).

◆ As per claim 6,

- “Means for representing a table in which retrieved documents are disposed in a descending order of scores along one axis, a plurality of keywords that are elements of a query vector are disposed along another axis, and scores of the keywords in the respective documents are disposed on intersection points of the respective documents and the keywords”

Li does not clearly disclose this table in the invention. However, Black et al, discloses a system that can summary keywords searched (See fig. 5 – 6, Black). The displayed is limited by the keyword weighting (paragraph 0060, 0062, Black). As shown in fig. 5 of Black, a plurality of keywords that are elements of a query vector are disposed along another axis (col. 2 in the table); scores of the keywords in the respective documents are disposed on intersection points of the respective documents and the keywords (col. 3 in the table).

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the teaching of Black about the keyword summary table into the invention of Li because the teaching provides great capability in managing documents in a relevancy order.

◆ As per claim 7, the combination of Li and Black disclose:

- “Means for extracting terms co-occurring with the keywords in the query vector from documents obtained as retrieval results and representing a list of the terms; and means for adding a term designated among the terms on the list to the query information” See paragraph 0052 – 0054, Black.

◆ As per claim 8, the combination of Li and Black disclose:

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- “Retrieval result representing means for representing a list of retrieved documents in a descending order of score rankings; and means for adding a document designated among the documents represented on said retrieval result representing means to the query information” See Fig. 5, Black, and Fig. 4 of Li.

♦ As per claim 9, the combination of Li and Black disclose:

- “Means for re-assembling a query conception based on the modified query information and representing the re-assembled query conception as a query vector containing a plurality of keywords and weights of the respective keywords” See fig. 4 of Li.

♦ As per claim 10, the combination of Li and Black disclose:

- “Means for generating a query vector containing a plurality of keywords and weights of the respective keywords out of query information transmitted from a client” See Fig. 3, paragraph 0045 – 0047.
- “ Means for transmitting a screen representing the query vector to the client” See Fig. 2, element 180, paragraph 0048, 0086.
- “ Means for transmitting the query vector to a database for information retrieval” See Fig. 2, element 140, paragraph 0041.
- “ And means for transmitting a screen representing retrieval results from the database to the client” See Fig. 5, Black.

♦ As per claim 11 - 12, the combination of Li and Black disclose:

Claims 11 – 12 are rejected based on the rejection of claims 7 – 9.

Conclusion

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4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Pustejovsky et al (U.S. 2001/0037328) discloses a method for interfacing to a knowledge acquisition system.
- Krupin et al (U.S. 6,751,611) discloses a method for creating improved search queries.
- Marchisio (U.S. 6,757,646) discloses an extended functionality for an inverse inference engine based web search.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CamLinh Nguyen whose telephone number is 703 - 305-1951.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

From October 25, 2004, the Examiner can be reached at a new phone number: 571 – 272 – 4024.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 308-1436. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.


Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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